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Remarks:

Applicants believe this response to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2003. This Response is being submitted with a Petition and fee for a three month extension of time, such that the Response due date is extended to January 16, 2004.

Claims 1-25 and 32-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended and new claims 33-37 have been added. The amendments and new claims are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-8, 12-16 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Barry, U.S. Patent No. 4,065,006. Claims 1-6, 8-21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Weir, U.S. Patent no. 3,613,910. Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry or Weir, in view of Huang et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,505,291. Claims 1-8, 12-16 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaughan et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,058,217, in view of Hainsworth, U.S. Patent No. 4,492,504.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to remove the previously added limitations in order to broaden claim 1 to be similar to the claim as originally filed. Applicants have added new claims 32-37 to include the subject matter that has been deleted from claim 1.

Applicants submit that the Examiner's continued reliance on the Barry and Weir patents is improper. Barry discloses a container side-transfer system for a railroad, and is thus

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improperly applied to the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention, which is operable to dispatch randomly arranged containers of sorted mail to particular dispatch carts. There is no teaching or suggestion of applying the principles disclosed in Barry to a mail container postal dispatch system, nor is there any motivation to do so. Furthermore, even if the principles disclosed in Barry are improperly applied to the claims of the present application, Barry does not disclose, teach or suggest the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention for all of the reasons set forth in the previous response. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of the claims in view of Barry.

Applicants further submit that the warehouse system of Weir is also non-analogous to a mail container postal dispatch system which dispatches randomly arranged containers of sorted mail to particular dispatch carts. To the contrary, Weir discloses a warehouse system for handling freight at a truck or trailer terminal. There is no disclosure or suggestion or motivation in Weir to apply any of the teachings of Weir to a mail container postal dispatch system. Moreover, Applicants submit that, even if such an application is made, Weir does not disclose, teach or suggest the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention for all of the reasons set forth in the previous responses. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims in view of Weir is respectfully requested.

With respect to the new rejection of claims 1-8, 12-16 and 18-22 in view of the combination of Vaughan et al. and Hainsworth, Applicants submit that such an application of the prior art is also improper and even if made does not disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention, particularly as claimed herein. Vaughan et al. discloses an automatic sorting system for sorting airline baggage. The system identifies the bags and diverts them onto the line or lines leading to bins or skid plates for loading the bags onto a respective flight. Vaughan et al. thus does not disclose, teach or suggest the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention. For example, the baggage sorting system of Vaughan et al. does not include a plurality of spurs extending from a main line in the direction of particular dispatch carts. Nor, for

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example, does Vaughan et al. disclose or make any suggestion or reference to a transport mechanism which transports containers from each of the spurs to a dispatch cart juxtaposed with that spur.

Furthermore, the combination of Vaughan et al. and Hainsworth is improper and does not result in the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention. Hainsworth discloses an unmanned guided vehicle for moving inventory or materials or parts within a manufacturing plant. The unmanned guided vehicle of Hainsworth is operable to move particular, rectangular-shaped containers (such as discussed in column 5, lines 62-66 of Hainsworth) from shelves or racks. There is no disclosure or teaching or suggestion or motivation to apply any of the teachings of Hainsworth to the airline baggage sorting system of Vaughan et al. Vaughan et al. discloses that the airline bags are diverted onto lines that move the bags to bins or skid plates for loading the bags onto the respective flight. The bags thus are positioned at a skid plate and likely are manually moved from the skid plates and loaded into the plane using conventional means. There is no disclosure in Vaughan et al. of placing the bags into shelves for removal and transfer of the bags by a vehicle or any other device, nor is there any suggestion or motivation to modify the unmanned guided vehicle of Hainsworth to handle airline bags on a skid plate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the combination of Vaughan et al. and Hainsworth is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Weir and/or Barry and/or Vaughan et al., and/or Hainsworth, either alone or in combination with any prior art of record, do not disclose, teach or suggest the mail container postal dispatch system of the present invention, particularly as set forth in claim 1 and in the claims depending therefrom.

Claims 1-25 and 32-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-25 and 32-37 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

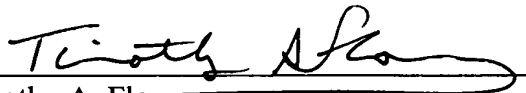
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Respectfully submitted,

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